Hockey Team to participate in the Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament in Malaysia as a measure of abundant caution, so that their presence in Malaysia did not become an occasion for additional irritants in our bilateral relations.

Deportation of UAE criminals

3657. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any demand from UAE Government for deportation of the criminals who have taken shelter in India;

(b) if so, the number of such criminals; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) The Government of UAE has in the past sought fugitives of Indian nationality who purportedly had escaped to India after committing crimes in the UAE. The bilateral Extradition Treaty which came into effect on 29 May, 2000 prohibits either side from extraditing its own nationals. Post Extradition Treaty there is no pending request from UAE for extradition/deportation of any non-Indian to the UAE.

Sufferings of Indians in Malaysia

3658. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the sufferings of the other Indian workers in Malaysia in additiion to more than 200 I.T. professionals who were raided by Malaysian police;

(b) if so, whether the Indian High Commission in Malaysia has taken up the grievances of both the I.T. professionals as well as the unskilled Indian workers working in Malaysia; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the results achieved thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Government is aware of other incidents involving arrest or detention of unskilled Indian workers in Malaysia.

(b) and (c) In each case, the Indian High Commission in Malaysia took up the matter with the local employers as also with the governmnet of Malaysia for intervention. Employers found guilty of violating terms of contract have been blacklisted and recommendation to cancel licenses of corresponding Indian manpower agents made to the Ministry of Labour, Government of India. Since 2001, 103 Malaysian companies have been blacklisted.

Sanctions against Pakistan

3660. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the U.S. Government has lifted sanctions against Pakistan, imposed in 1999 after the military coup;

(b) whether this step has been taken by the U.S. to solicit the support of Pakistan in the Security Council;

(c) whether this decision came a few days after India declared its military unwillingness to permit the U.S. aircrafts, en-route to the Gulf from refueling in its territory; and

(d) if so, the latest position of our relations with U.S.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The U.S. President exercised his authority, conferred by the Pakistan Waiver Act 2001, to waive democracy-related sanctions against Pakistan until 30 september 2003.

(b) It is not for Government to comment on the U.S. motives for the waiver of sanctions. The waiver of sanctions, however, was required to release U.S. financial assistance earlier allocated to pakistan for the current U.S. fiscal year (01 October 2002 to 30 September 2003).

(c) The United States did not seek refuelling facilities in India for its military operations in Iraq.